

HOSTERIA ALTA VISTA

The best kept secret in Patagonia



The Hosteria Alta Vista is located within the boundaries of the legendary Estancia Anita, 40 km (24,85 miles) from El Calafate, accessible by gravel road.

The amazing landscape surrounding the estancia contains all the different ecosystems that typify Patagonia: The Andean range, immense Patagonian steppe, glacial lakes, forests and majestic glaciers.

The Estancia Anita was an icon in Patagonian history and development, so much so, that it was the place where the so-called “Patagonia Rebelde” strike took place in 1921- 1922 as shown on the memorial that stands at the entrance. The estancia of 75000 hectares is dedicated to sheep breeding with almost 27000 heads. It used to be a city within the city with its own shearing sheds, wool warehouses, gauchos houses, stores, bars, orchard, etc. A visit to the estancia is something not to be missed.

The main house -Hosteria Alta Vista - of British style was transformed into a classy hosteria with impeccable decoration. Surrounded by luxuriant gardens of lavender and roses in a sheltered location at the foot of 1,294-meter Cerro Fraile, it is a place to be spoiled.

The Main house has six tastefully decorated standard rooms and one suite. Living room, bar and restaurant all of them decorated by Maria Freixas.



it has a first-rate bar/restaurant open to guests only, a separate quincho for lamb barbecues, and flawless service from its English-speaking staff. The services include: Central heating, laundry (at extra cost), bar, fax and Internet services (at extra cost).

Website: www.hosteriaalatavista.com.ar



In addition to accommodations, Alta Vista offers excursions that include horseback riding in the hills immediately behind the estancia, offering a small lagoon full of wildfowl, condors soaring above, and distant views of Glacier Moreno.

Activities and services included in the Estancia:

- ✦ Relax in a beautiful, lonely landscape.
- ✦ Horses-rides, trekking, mountain bike rides, climbing nearby hills in search of the most wonderful views.
- ✦ Sharing the farm works such as sheep shearing, visit to the sheds, iron-works and the old farm premises. The works are genuine, not just prepared for the visitors.
- ✦ Flora observation and Birdwatching.
- ✦ Typical lamb barbecue with the best argentine wines.

The activities:

HORSEBACK RIDES

1.- 2 HOURS HORSEBACK RIDE TO CHORILLO MALO.

Easy ride in the surroundings of the hosteria following the Chorillo Malo river bed.



2.- CHORRILLO MALO LOOKOUT POINT

The most popular ride over easy and almost flat terrains which leads to an amazing lagoon with flamingoes, swans, upland geese among others to

then reach a lookout point that overlooks the Lake Argentino basin, from the Andean range and its glaciers to the steppe beyond. We then understand why Alta Vista receives its name; it is an aerial (Alta) view of the valley beneath.

We stop for lunch by the Chorrillo Malo (small stream) to then return to the hosteria.

Duration: 6 hours.

3.- HORSERIDE TO PASO VOLCAN

The aim of this ride is to reach Mt Fraile base, an old volcano from where we will be able to enjoy amazing views over the Andean range and Torres del Paine.

We cross the Chorillo Alta Vista (a small stream close to the hosteria) and ride into a forest that reaches up to 1200 m (3937 ft) above sea level. Once at the base, on the Baguales Mountain range, we enjoy these amazing vistas, while condors circle above us.

The return to the estancia will be following trails on the mountains that surround the estancia and crossing the Chorillo Alta Vista once again.

Duration: 6- 8 hours depending upon the riders level of expertise.

DAY HIKES

HIKE TO CHORLLO MALO LOOKOUT POINT

This is one of the most amazing hikes in the area. We start walking from the hosteria to an amazing lagoon with flamingoes, swans, upland geese among others to then reach a lookout point that overlooks the Lake Argentino basin, from the Andean range and its glaciers to the steppe beyond. We then understand why Alta Vista receives its name; it is an aerial (Alta) view of the valley beneath.



We stop for lunch by the Chorrillo Malo (small stream) to then return to the hosteria.

Duration: 3,3 to 4 hours one way.

Slope: 200 m.

HIKE TO CERRO CRISTALES.

The Cristales range extends from the Chilean border to Lake Roca, close to the Southern arm of Lake Argentino. From its highest point - Cerro Cristales (1300m) one can dominate the Southern basin of Lake Argentino and the Andean Range from Torres del Paine to Fitz Roy Mount to the North.

We drive from the hosteria (15 km - 9 miles) by car to reach the Mount base and we then hike its northern face to enjoy the amazing views.

Duration: 6 hours

Slope: 1000 m. (3280 ft).

HIKE TO CERRO FRAILE.

Cerro Fraile is an old volcano that offers a 360° panoramic view from its summit. From the Andean range and its glaciers to the W to the endless Patagonian steppe to the E. We drive by car to its base and then hike its Eastern face towards its summit from where we will enjoy unique views, while condors circle above us.

Duration: 7 hours

Slope: 1000 m. (3280 ft).

MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDES.

There are a set of mountain bike rides from 1 hour to 2-3 hours reaching Chorrillo Malo and also Estancia Anita that - as said before - deserves a visit.

BIRDWATCHING

NESTING SITE OF THE Buff-necked Ibis_ (*Theristicus caudatus*):

Only 50 m from the hosteria, the buff-necked ibis nests in the elegant cypresses. These migratory birds nest between October and April.

Close to the Hosteria (steppe)

Various species such as Chilean Flicker (*Colaptes pitius*), Upland Geese (*Chloepaga picta*), Magellanic Woodpecker (*Campephilus magellanicus*), Thorn-tailed rayadito (*Aphrastura spinicauda*), Austral Thrush (*Turdus falcklandii*), etc.

At the lagoons.

Slope 150 m

Hike: 1 hour one way

This lagoon keeps its water level until February. Therefore we may be able to spot: Chilean flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus chilensis*), Black-necked swans (*Cygnus melancoryphus*), and several species of ducks. Brown pintail (*Anas georgica*), Southern wigeon (*Anas sibilatrix*), etc.

Lookouts at the Chorrillo Malo

Slope: 200 m

Hike: 1,30 hour one way.

Ideal to observe condors and eagles.

FLOWERS.

The Patagonian steppe - especially during October & November - is covered by countless small flowers hidden behind coirons and bushes. Among the most attractive ones we find.

- Arverjillas (*Lathyrus magellanicus*)
- Oxalis (*Oxalis enneaphylla* ssp. *Ibarii*)
- Violeta amarilla de la estepa (*Viola magallánica*)
- Siempre viva (*Armeria maritima*)
- Topa-Topa (*Calceolaria biflora*)
- Campanita (*Phaiophleps biflora*)
- Orquídea amarilla (*Gavilea lutea*)